Robin Hood's Golden Prize:

Shewing how he Robed two Priests of Five Hundred Pounds.

Tune —— *Robin Hood* was a tall young Man, *&c.*

I Have heard talk of Robin Hood,
Derry, derry down,
And of brave Little John;
O Fryar Tuck, and will Scarlet,
Lockfly, and Maid-marrion.
Hey down, derry, derry down.

But such a Tale as this before,
I think was never known;
For Robin Hood disguis'd himself,
and from the Wood is gone.

Like to a Fryar, bold Robin Hood,
was accoutred in his array;

With Hood, Gown, Beads, and Crucifix,
he pass'd upon the way.

He had not gone past miles two or three,
but it was his chance to espy
Two lusty Priests clad all in black,
come riding gallantly,

Benedicte, then said Robin Hood,
some pity on me take;
Cross you my Hand with a single groat,
for our dear Lady's sake.

For I have been wandering all this day,
and nothing could I get;
Not so much as one poor cup of Drink,
nor bit of bread to eat.

Now by'r holy Dame the Priests replyed,
we never a penny have;
For we this morning have been rob'd,
and could no Money save.

I am much affraid, said bold Robin Hood,
that you do both tell a Lie;
And now before you do go hence,
I am resolv'd to try.

When as the Priests heard him say so,
then they rode away amain;
But Robin Hood betook him to his heels,
and soon overtook them again.

Then Robin Hood laid hold of them both,
and pull'd them down from their horse:
O spare us Fryar, the Priests cryed out,
on us have some Remorse.

You said you'd no money, quoth Robin Hood,
wherefore without delay,
We three will fall down on our Knees,
and for money we will pray.

The Priests they could not gain say,
but down they kneel with speed:
Send us, O send us, then quoth they,
some money to serve our need.

The Priests did pray with a mournful chear,
sometimes their hands did wring;
Sometimes they wept and tore their hair,
whilst Robin did merrily sing.

When they had been praying an hours space,
the Priests did still lament;
Then, quoth bold Robin Hood, let us see,
what money Heaven hath us sent.

We will be sharers all alike,
of money that we have;

And there is never a One of us,
that his Fellow shall deceive.

The Priests their hands in their pockets put,
but money they could find none;
We'll search ourselves, said Robin Hood,
each other One by One.

Then Robin Hood took pains to search them,
and he found good store of Gold;
Five hundred pieces presently,
upon the Grass he told.

Here is a brave show, said Robin Hood,
such store of Gold to see,
And you each One shall have a part,
'cause you pray'd so heartily.

He gave them Fifty pounds a-piece,
and the rest for himself did keep:
The Priests they durst not speak one Word,
but sighed wond'rous deep.

With that the Priests rose up from their Knees,
thinking to have parted so:
Nay, stay, says Robin Hood, one thing more
I have to say e'er you go.

You shall be sworn, says bold Robin Hood,
upon this holy Grass,
That you will never tell Lies again,
which way soever you pass.

The second Oath that you must make,
that all the days of your lives,
You never shall tempt Maids unto sin,
nor lie with other Mens Wives.

The last Oath you shall take, is this,
be charitable to the Poor;
Say you have met a holy Fryar,
and I desire no more.

He set them on their horses again,
and away then they did ride;
And he return'd to the merry Green Wood,
with great Joy, Mirth and Pride.

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